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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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September 23, 1986

Mr. Lu Jingting  
Minister-Counselor (Science and Technology)  
Embassy of the People's Republic of China  
2300 Connecticut Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Minister-Counselor Lu:

Before Jing Zhaoqian left for Beijing, he asked me to collect written questions from U.S. Government experts regarding China's space launch capabilities. Mr. Jing had offered to carry the questions to Beijing and provide answers at the briefing he is planning for October at your Embassy.

I have only now finished collecting the questions. They are attached. Because Mr. Jing has already left for Beijing, I want to pass them on to you, for transmission to Mr. Jing in Beijing. I hope this is convenient for you.

You will note that some of the attached questions are very general, and others quite specific. I and my colleagues will appreciate any answers that can be provided. We are also looking forward to the proposed briefing at the Embassy. I am certain it will be helpful to those of us involved in the issue of China's launch of US satellites.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Henry Levine  
Office of Chinese Affairs

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1. What are the environmental conditions which the spacecraft will be subjected to on the launch pad?
2. Would the spacecraft be subjected to ambient conditions without environmental protections?
3. What is the status of your agreement, reported into the press, with Western Union for the launch of Westar VI S?
4. What is the status of your previously reported agreement with Teresat?
5. Please explain your launch price? How it is arrived at? Is it a firm price, escalated, or is it fixed price. Who determines how it would change? What is your payment schedule? Discounts?
6. What is your present GTO capability and when will the added capabilities be available?
7. Do you plan to set up a launch site closer to the Equator at some future date?
8. How long before launch must the payload be delivered.
9. What facilities for payload processing will be offered at the launch site? Is this included in the basic price?
10. What are the flight rate estimates currently projected at the Delta class launch capability.
11. How many Comsats do you forecast to launch a year?
12. What are going to be the key elements which you will be emphasizing to the user community?
13. What are your plans for insuring Long March? Will you abide by the Space Treaty for third party liability? What risks will you require the customer to accept?
14. What types of financing do you offer your customers?
15. What types of modifications would be required of satellites currently compatible with Ariane and or Shuttle in order to be launched with Long March?
16. Do you plan to have cooperative ventures with US or European companies to market your launch services?
17. Will there be any restrictions on foreign personnel having access to any of your facilities/areas involved in a launch?

18. What will be your launch postponement policy.
19. Will you completely brief the customer on the technical readiness of the launch vehicle prior to launch? Will the customer have the final go/no go decision?
20. What protections do you offer for proprietary information?
21. What is the failure history of Long March? Please describe in some detail your management process for dealing with failures?
22. Please describe your pre-launch review process.
23. Please describe your quality control process in manufacturing the various elements of the vehicles.
24. If in the future China provides launch services to countries which do not possess the indigenous technological capability for launching space vehicles, how will China ensure that such countries do not acquire access to Chinese technology which could be applicable to developing a military space capability?
25. What are China's views of the technology transfer aspects of launch of a US satellite? What are the major technology transfer issues China sees?
26. What is China's ability to handle payloads heavier than 1400 kilograms?
27. What classes of satellites will China attempt to compete for, beyond the HS-376?
28. How will China handle out of area telemetry and tracking?
29. When will the Long March 3-4L be available?
30. What are the technical specifications of the third stage of the Long March 3, including, weight, thrust, and propellant proportions?
31. What is the weight of the fairing proposed for the Westar launch?
32. Will China allow an RF sweep of the launch site for frequencies hazardous to the satellite, computers, and pyrotechnics?